



Bristol Bay Native Corporation

Enriching Our Native Way of Life

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February 22, 2011

Senator Lisa Murkowski
709 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

I write concerning your recent response to the EPA's Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment. As you know, while BBNC is a strong supporter of responsible development, it is our belief that the science that is available now demonstrates that the proposed Pebble mine would have unacceptable adverse effects on fisheries and other important Bay area resources, and thus does not meet our responsible development standards. Because of this belief, we requested that EPA use its 404c authority to carefully tailor a prohibition on 404 permits that would eliminate the unacceptable risks posed by that proposed mine. While disappointed that EPA did not move directly to a proposed 404c finding, we see integrity in the watershed assessment process and believe it should be allowed to run its course without prejudice.

In your statement, you urged EPA to "commit now" to refrain from using its 404c authority prior to full consideration of a permit application. Yet when we met with your office last Fall, we were told that while you preferred that any decision on the proposed Pebble mine be made based on permit applications, you believed in the right of citizens to petition our government and so long as any action was based on a science-based open process, you would not oppose such an effort. Has your position changed?

BBNC will work hard in this process to ensure the assessment and any ensuing decisions are founded on the best science and accomplished in a transparent fashion. And we ask that you join us in ensuring the same, without limiting the potential outcomes.

Sincerely,

Jason Metrokin
President & Chief Executive Officer